PEOPLE ARE STRANGE
THE ODD WORLD OF SPORTS {page 26}

SECOND LISTEN
ALBUMS THAT GOT LOST IN THE SHUFFLE
{page 12}

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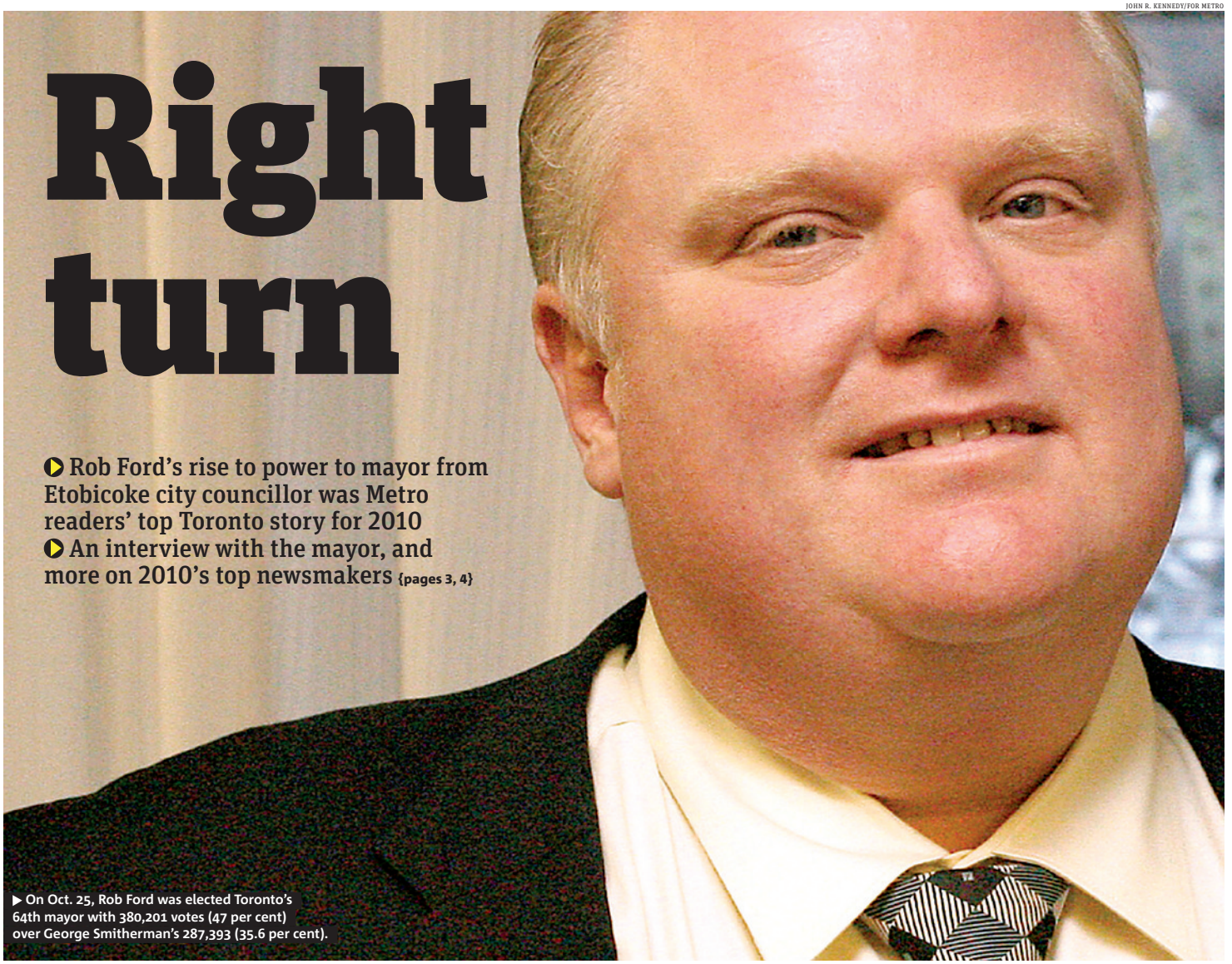
JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO

Right turn

- Rob Ford's rise to power to mayor from Etobicoke city councillor was Metro readers' top Toronto story for 2010
- An interview with the mayor, and more on 2010's top newsmakers {pages 3, 4}



▶ On Oct. 25, Rob Ford was elected Toronto's 64th mayor with 380,201 votes (47 per cent) over George Smitherman's 287,393 (35.6 per cent).

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North York Sheridan Mall
Sheppard Centre
Yorkgate Mall

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Oakville Place

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Oshawa Centre

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Time Square Shopping Centre

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Cedarbrae Mall (kiosk)
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Ford voted Metro's newsmaker of year

Torontonians clamber on mayor's anti-gravy train Too much duplication and waste, he says

LACY ATALICK
@METRONEWS.CA

Some images of Toronto in 2010: Civilians set police cruisers ablaze while the streets become a military fortress; a rising political star is humbled by a sex scandal; an unlikely slugger powers his way into the record book; and an international hip-hop star emerges from Forest Hill.

But one image from 2010 resonates most with our readers: A 41-year-old family man from Etobicoke declares war on the gravy train, and Torontonians enlist en masse. Rob Ford, elected mayor in a landslide, was also voted Metro's newsmaker of the year.

We sat down with Ford recently for an interview:

Were you surprised at how quickly you were able to kill the vehicle registration tax?

No. People hated that tax. They didn't want to pay that extra $60. So I said if I am fortunate enough to be mayor, the first council meeting, we will get rid of it.

How do you plan to make up the $64-million shortfall?

You just gotta tighten your belt. You have to lead by example, right? They gave me a budget of $2.7 million. I said I don't need $2.7 million, so I reduced it by $700,000. I reduced 26 per cent of my own office. And all I am asking other departments to do is 2.5 per cent. So if I can do 26 per cent then it's pretty easy for the other departments to do 2.5 per cent.

You said you want to cut the number of councillors in half. When do you plan on doing that and how?

End of the third year, beginning of the fourth year.

How would that be worked out?

A vote. We have 22 MPs in Toronto, 22 MPPs, and we don't need 44 councillors — all this duplication and waste.

Why do you think that?

My dad was an MPP, and I saw how hard he worked and what he did as someone who represented a whole provincial or federal riding. Then I looked at myself when I was a councillor — myself and Susan Hall sharing the same riding as my dad — just tripping over each other. You get invited to a Christmas party. You see your MP there and you see your MPP there, and you see two councillors. Too much duplication and waste.

I understand you're not a big fan of parades. Are you going to cut funding for parades?

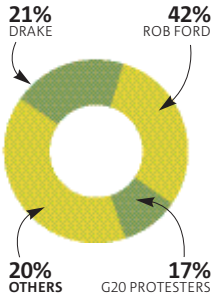
I think we have to review all funding for all parades. It's not balanced out. Some parades get funded and some don't. It's time we get the private sector involved. The people at the Santa Claus parade came up to me and said they should get funding, they're not getting funding. The St. Patrick's Day parade people said they should get funded, they weren't getting funded. I just want a level playing field. Either we all get funded or none of us get funded, or have a combination of private, public mix.

Previous mayors have marched in the Pride Parade. Are you going to march in the Pride Parade if invited?

I have gone away every July … I always take my family up to the cottage — sort of our getaway time. If I'm here, like I said I would be more than happy to attend any parade, not just that parade.

Newsmakers

Percentage of votes by Metro readers:



JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO

▶ Ford, 41, lives in Etobicoke with his wife, Renata, and their daughter and son.

From Degrassi debut, Drake grows up

Drake, the singer-rapper whose debut album went platinum this year, finished second in our Toronto newsmaker of the year poll. But he doesn't rhyme about a hard-knock past, the fodder of Biggie Smalls, one of his lyrical idols.

The Forest Hill native is an unlikely icon to throw into the mix with Lil Wayne, who helped Aubrey Drake Graham get his first album launched.

We first met Drake as a TV actor, playing a boy in a wheelchair on high school drama Degrassi, The Next Generation.

Now, 24 years old, he's been called one of today's most seductive voices in rap music. Nominated for four Grammys, including best new artist, Drake started outside in the music biz but has worked hard to get in. Or as he rhymes on Forever: "Everybody got a deal, I did it without one."

Thank Me Later, his first album, was released in June. He led the pack with seven MMVA nominations including International Video of the Year by a Canadian, and took home two pieces of hardware, including MMVA for Hip Hop Video of the Year.

Drake is also two-time Juno Award winner, and will host the 40th Junos here in Toronto next year.

LACY ATALICK

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Double Juno winner Drake poses with his trophies at the Juno Awards in April in St. John's N.L.

1 news

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Mobile video and the rise of 3-D TV among 2011's big tech stories. Scan code for the story.

Revisiting the revolt — six months later

G20 opponent reflects on aftermath of 'blatant disruption'

KEITH CARMAN
TORONTO@METRONEWS.CA

With graphic scenes of burning police cruisers and corralled protesters combating peace officers, June's G20 summit caused a global commotion. Yet, with so many residual effects, was this meeting of government and financial leaders worth it?

No, said Kezio Mauronik, a downtown resident who calls himself a non-confrontational opponent to what many feel was a wasteful weekend.

"With the aftermath overshadowing the actual meetings, I don't think many people who weren't directly involved even know what the summit was about anymore," he said. "Toronto citizens should not have been subjected to such a blatant disruption."

Mauronik said he sees both sides of how the weekend erupted into disarray.

"Contrary to the popular line put forth by the police and the media, anarchy isn't about breaking things," he asserts. "What happened to police cars and shop windows was vandalism. To describe those acts as anarchism is pure ignorance.

"Still, it was disturbing to see the use of police force first-hand, something you'd expect in dictatorial countries, not Canada. As a normal citizen prompted to peacefully protest by our then-mayor, I shouldn't have been subjected to that."

Mauronik said he holds political leaders accountable for allowing Hogtown to be subjected to the debacle while "disowning the entire thing."

A report by Ontario Ombudsman André Marin found that police were hastily granted greater powers by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services via an amendment to the Public Works Protection Act.

Summit stats

- **Cost:** $857,901,850.31
- **Individual police officers:** About 10,000
- **Total police forces:** 14
- **Arrests during summit:** About 900
- **Charges upheld to date:** 300 and declining
- **Vandals charged since G20:** 22
- **Total of class-action lawsuits filed against police:** About $160 million

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A protester jumps on a burnt-out car as a police car burns in the background during an anti-G20 demonstration in June.

Marin said the revision created "martial law ... in the city of Toronto, leading to the most massive compromise of civil liberties in Canadian history." His report calls for revision of the PWPA and a review of what powers police may receive under the act.

In response, Toronto police Chief Blair said, "I think it's important that the public be assured that we're all taking this very seriously" and noted five officers accused of using extreme force had been identified with more to come.

Premier Dalton McGuinty said the province acted with "good intention" yet was rash in allowing the law alteration. "The police were given additional authority. We moved too quickly to provide that authority," he said.

On Tuesday, Const. Babak Andalib-Goortani was charged with assault with a weapon in the takedown of a protester at the Ontario legislature during the summit.

Metro readers sound off on newsmaker nominees

Here's what you had to say about some of the votes you cast in our Newsmaker of the Year poll:

ROB FORD

Rob Ford. No contest. From laughing stock to Mayor in 9 mos. Love him or hate him, he's all T.O. has talked about since March. (@rwindeler)

Of course Robert Ford rocked my 2010. I can't wait to see what kind of government he will do. Some of his promises are just so impossible to achieve that I am dying to see how his government ends! (Cristian Renteria)

DRAKE

Drizzzy!! He brought out Rick Ross, Fabolous, Kardinal Offishall, Bun B, Young Jeezy, Jay-Z and Eminem to his OVO concert at the amphitheater. Rob Ford only gave us Don Cherry. (Kevin Roddy)

G20 PROTESTERS

#g20 protesters only if not portrayed by black bloc and burning cop cars. Otherwise the wrong story is highlighted. (@n_citycountry)

G20 POLICE

My newsmaker of the year would have to be the Metro Toronto police, during the G20 summit.... The political, economic and social ramifications of the G20 security issue has and will forever change our image as Canadians, at home and abroad.

It appears the secrecy, deceit and deception by the police and the provincial government of Ontario will have far-reaching consequences for all those involved.... The suffering many protesters witnessed or endured first-hand will never be forgotten.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

▶ Hazel McCallion gives a speech shortly after being elected to what she has said will be her last term as mayor of Mississauga.

Bravo to all those, whether they be amateur citizens or professionals in the media, who documented the evidence needed to secure and protect the rights of average Canadians caught in the middle of the G20 protest. (Michael Bradt)

CITO GASTON

It has to be Cito Gaston. I have always admired Cito. Then he said goodbye! His farewell speech was wonderful. Class act to the end! (Karen Maxwade)

K'NAAN

Throughout the hype of his Waving Flag song at the 2010 World Cup (which I LOVE), he was a proud ambassador of Canada and Canadian values: humble, kind, appreciative, hard-working and talented. Not bad for a boy who fled Somalia as a teenager, seeking a better life in Canada! K'naan is an inspiration for refugees everywhere around the world, or anyone struggling to make a new start — look where his hard work and perseverance led him! (Alison Jones)

HAZEL MCCALLION

There seems to be no better candidate than Hurricane Hazel for Metro newsmaker of the year! A visionary who has transformed the little city of Mississauga into a model city in the GTA.... Her passion for her city and people are reflected by the way she runs up the stairs for a meeting and the fiery speeches delivered by her. She has a very proactive approach and also believes in community engagement in accomplishing goals toward building Mississauga as a future haven for all cultures. (Annie Mathew)

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Canada 2010

Another weird and wonderful year of news

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Actor Randy Quaid — who played a hard-drinking, ultra-paranoid pilot who claimed he was once abducted by aliens in the movie Independence Day — came to Canada seeking asylum because Hollywood "star whackers" were out to kill him. Quaid said if it wasn't for Canada's refugee system, he and his wife would be dead.

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A look at top Canadian news events of 2010 from the Canadian Press:

• Haiti devastated by strongest earthquake in over 200 years.
• Zakaria Amara, of the Toronto 18, sentenced to life in prison.
• Col. Russell Williams is charged with first-degree murder in deaths of two women and with sexually assaulting two others.
• Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, 21, is killed during training run before Winter Olympics.
• Canada finishes Vancouver Winter Games with a record 14 gold medals for host country.
• Former junior hockey coach Graham James who was pardoned after being convicted of sexually abusing two former players sparks outrage.
• Harper appoints Rona Ambrose new minister for the status of women.
• RCMP's Taser policy calls for use of stun guns only against people who are hurting someone or clearly about to do so.
• Marc Emery, Canada's "Prince of Pot," faces drug charges in the U.S.
• Harper government announces legislation that would end pardons for criminals.
• Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard, Canada's top soldier in Afghanistan, is relieved of command after allegations of inappropriate relationship with a female subordinate.
• Masked militants use so-called Black Bloc tactics at G20 demonstrations in Toronto.
• Harmonized sales tax (HST) is implemented in Ontario and B.C.
• University of Waterloo's David Johnston named Canada's new Governor General.
• MPs in House of Commons vote to kill Conservative member's bill to scrap the long-gun registry.
• Ontario Superior Court strikes down Canada's prostitution laws.
• Harper confirms Canadian troops to stay in Afghanistan past July 2011.
• Five Canadian tourists, two Mexican employees are killed in Mexican hotel explosion.
• Rescue of people trapped in vehicles near Sarnia, Ont., after a snowstorm.

No longer with us: Deaths in 2010

January
18 – **Kate McGarrigle**, 63, internationally acclaimed folk singer.

February
18 – **John Babcock**, 109, last known veteran of Canada's First World War army.

March
9 – **Corey Haim**, 38, Canadian actor.
15 – **Dan Achen**, 51, former lead guitarist for Junkhouse.

April
13 – **Gene Kiniski**, 81, Edmonton-born pro wrestler.
18 – **Devon Clifford**, 30, drummer for the Canadian dance-rockers You Say Party! We Say Die!

May
5 – **Jim Nelson**, 88, career journalist who pioneered the job of press secretary to the prime minister 60 years ago.
12 – **Charlie Francis**, 61, Ben Johnson's former track coach.

June
16 – **Maureen Forrester**, 79, celebrated Canadian opera star.
22 – **Tracy Wright**, 50, Toronto actress who frequently collaborated with husband Don McKellar.

July
5 – **Bob Probert**, 45, former NHL tough guy.
27 – **Maury Chaykin**, 61, Canadian character actor.

August
12 – **Mario Lague**, 52, communications director for Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff.

September
22 – **Jackie Burroughs**, 71, British-born Canadian actress.

October
22 – **Denis Simpson**, 59, actor and singer, host of TVOntario children's show Polka Dot Door.

November
19 – **Pat Burns**, legendary NHL coach.
28 – **Leslie Nielsen**, 84, Canadian-born actor.

December
6 – **Mark Dailey**, 57, American-born Toronto newscaster.
8 – **Vic Lynn**, 85, three-time Stanley Cup winner with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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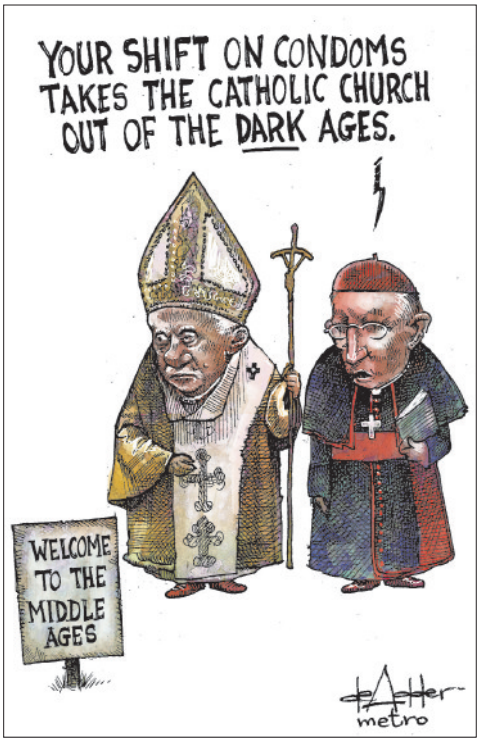
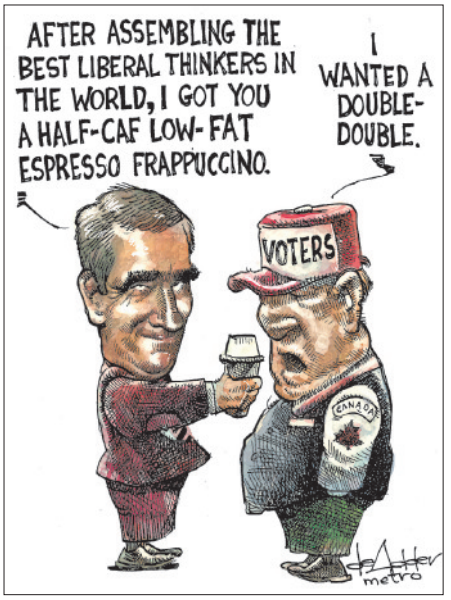
Michael de Adder's top 'toons of 2010





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Events, celebs to influence travel trends

Anniversaries, events, celebrities and the economy will influence travel in 2011, from the royal wedding in London to the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York.

London is sure to be crowded for the April 29 wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, says travel expert Pauline Frommer, creator of the Pauline Frommer Guides.

"If Charles and Diana got 600,000 people who came into London for that wedding, I could see a million for this one," Frommer says.

New York has also turned up on hot lists for 2011, including the No. 1 city in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2011 guidebook.

"For all of New York, 11 September 2011 will be a defining moment," writes the publisher's U.S. travel editor, Robert Reid.

A memorial, with reflecting pools set above the footprints of the former World Trade Center, is expected to open in time for the anniversary.

The 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War will also be marked this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1%

One of the biggest questions for 2011 is how consumers will view travel to Europe. Air travel by North Americans to Europe was down about one per cent for the first six months of 2010.

2010 — A year of disasters

- 260,000 killed — most deadly year since 1983
- Scientists say human activity, global warming made things worse

EMILIO MORENATTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ A girl suffering cholera symptoms receives treatment at the Doctors Without Borders temporary hospital in Port-au-Prince.

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ A Pakistani boy reacts after he caught a fish while fishing with other boys in a flooded field next to their camp in Muzaffargarh in Punjab province, Pakistan.

This was the year the Earth struck back.

Earthquakes, heat waves, floods, volcanoes, super typhoons, blizzards, landslides and droughts killed at least a quarter of a million people in 2010, the deadliest year in more than a generation. More people were killed worldwide by natural disasters this year than have been killed by terrorists in the past 40 years combined.

"It just seemed like it was back-to-back, and it came in waves," said Craig Fugate, who heads the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency. It handled a record number of disasters in 2010.

We have ourselves to blame most of the time, scientists and disaster experts say.

Poor construction and development practices conspire to make earthquakes more deadly than they need be. More people live in poverty in vulnerable buildings in crowded cities. That means that when the ground shakes, the river breaches or the tropical cyclone hits, more people die.

The January earthquake that killed well over 220,000 people in Haiti is a perfect example.

In February, an earthquake that was more than 500 times stronger than the one that struck Haiti hit an area of Chile that was less populated, better constructed and not so impoverished. Chile's bigger quake caused fewer than 1,000 deaths.

Climate scientists say Earth's climate also is changing thanks to man-made global warming, bringing extreme weather, such as heat waves and flooding.

In the summer, one weather system caused oppressive heat in Russia, while farther south it caused flooding in Pakistan that inundated 160,580 square kilometres, about the size of Bangladesh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Campaigns starting for 2012

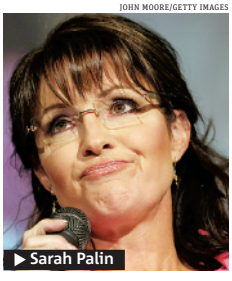
For Barack Obama, 2011 may at least provide some respite from a year-long litany of misery for the White House, culminating in a mid-term election "shellacking" and ending with the president locked in an unusual showdown with the disillusioned lawmakers of his own party.

The year ahead will see focus shifting to the battle for the Republican presidential election, a spectacle that promises to be every bit as bare-knuckled and bloody as Obama's own primary brawls against Hillary Clinton.

Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor who's considering a presidential run, will be the candidate to watch as establishment Republicans plot and scheme to ensure she fails, regardless of her wild popularity among the party's conservative base.

Pundits predict an enthralling political soap opera if Palin throws her hat in the ring against candidates such as former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee, a one-time Arkansas governor. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Sarah Palin

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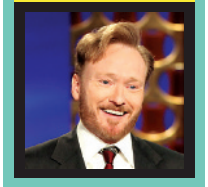
2 scene

Scene in brief



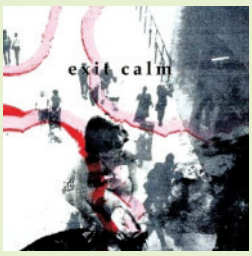
What began as an experiment in late-night, ended in a fiasco that made NBC a laughing stock and captivated the country. In January 2010, NBC sought to displace Tonight Show host, Conan O'Brien, by restoring Jay Leno to 11:35 p.m. But O'Brien didn't go for the 30 minute shift, and the fallout was one of the most public debacles in network history. In the end, O'Brien left with a huge settlement and finally ended up with a new show at TBS. Leno retook the Tonight Show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the year of Move and Kinect, Red Dead Redemption moved and connected.

You've already seen a ton of Best Albums of 2010 lists, all featuring the usual suspects. So I thought I'd offer my list of albums that seemed to get lost in the shuffle this year. Each deserves a second listen.

TEXT **ALAN CROSS**



1

Exit Calm,
Exit Calm
A Yorkshire band reminiscent of early-to-mid period Verve marbled with a little shoe gazer. Too fuzzy and floaty for the mainstream, it nevertheless is one of the better records of its kind in recent memory.

2

Peter Gabriel,
Scratch My Back
When this album of covers arranged for orchestra was released in February, a lot of people said, 'this is what we've been waiting EIGHT YEARS for?' and turned away. That was a mistake because Gabriel does some interesting re-imagining with this record, especially with David Bowie's Heroes.

3

Titus Andronicus,
The Monitor
A band named after a Shakespearean play with a concept album about the U.S. Civil War? At first blush, this sounds ridiculous and self-indulgent. Closer inspection is rewarded with one of the more erudite CDs of 2010.

4

Delphic,
Acolyte
An astonishingly mature-sounding debut from a young Manchester band. If New Order were starting out today, they might sound like these people. The perfect music for hip hair salons and the lobbies of boutique hotels.

5

Free Energy,
Free Energy
Disappointed by the latest offerings from Weezer or the prolonged absence of the Strokes? Then try the debut record from this Philadelphia band. Bang Pop is a terrific single.

6

These New Puritans,
Hidden
If you read British music magazines, you have noticed this CD at the top of several year-end lists. I was hooked from the moment I heard the song We Want War. If Braveheart were around today, he'd have his army marching to this.

7

Tobacco,
Maniac Meat
When I played this album for a friend, he came close to stroking out because of its sheer bizarreness. If you make it out alive, try Tobacco's full-time band, Black Moth Super Rainbow.

8

Gil Scott-Heron,
I'm New Here
Without the influence of G S-H's work in the 70s, rap and hip-hop would have evolved very differently. This album is his first in 15 years (dude's been in jail, so he was, er, otherwise occupied) and showed that he hadn't lost any of his vitality.

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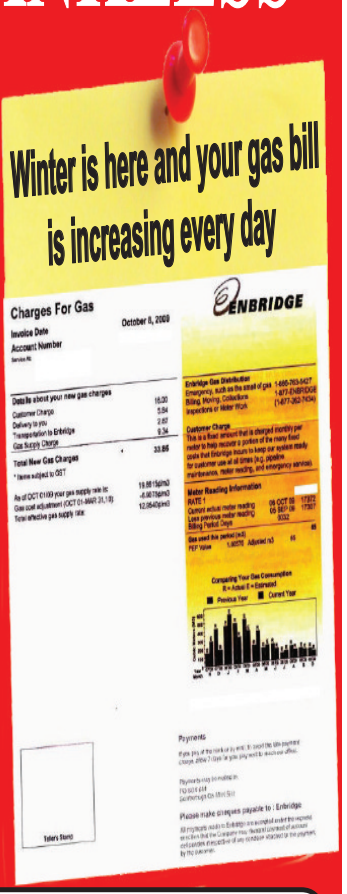

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Mad Men heads top 10

Television logged its share of ups and downs in 2010 — with Betty White way up there and the audience for Parker Spitzer way down Here's a look at The Associated Press' top picks for the year

1

Mad Men (AMC)
This series' fourth season resumed in November 1964 with magnetic ad man Don Draper (series star Jon Hamm) divorced and struggling at his startup agency. The season ended a year later as Draper found love — or so he thought — with his beautiful young secretary. Maybe the series' best year yet.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2

Spartacus: Blood and Sand (Starz)
With all the bloody violence, you felt the urge to take a shower. With all the hardbodies and hanky-panky, you wanted to take a cold shower. An orgiastic blend of hyper-realism and epic fantasy, with an outstanding cast including Lucy Lawless (Xena: Warrior Princess), this show is a wicked treat unlike anything else on TV.

3

Treme (HBO)
Set in the months after Hurricane Katrina, this drama is a sometimes joyful, sometimes painful homage to New Orleans. There is plenty of evident rage over the preventable disaster that resulted from Katrina.
But there's also music, soul and cultural zest propelling this saga of a city determined to get back on its feet.

4

30 Rock (NBC)
By now, its fifth season, this wildly celebrated comedy should either be feeling its age or larded with self-satisfaction.
Instead, it's as zany, fresh and inspired as ever. Its send-up of big business, with a conglomerate called Kabletown devouring GE Sheinhardt NBC Universal, has represented 30 Rock at its wackiest.

5

Walking Dead (AMC)
A tattered band of survivors faced a zombie invasion in Atlanta (and who knows how far beyond) in a drama that proved macabre, suspenseful, poignant and horribly funny.
Its all-too-fleeting six-episode first season left the audience as ravenous as zombies to feast on the monstrous twists surely lurking next year.

Five more

Those shows that just missed out on a place in the top five.

- **6. Super Bowl Ad with Dave, Jay and Oprah (CBS)** Produced on the sly and aired just once, during last February's Super Bowl telecast.
- **7. Luther (BBC America)** Idris Elba (The Wire) stars as the charismatic, tormented Luther.
- **8. The Good Wife (CBS)** In its second season, this courtroom-and-family drama has been even better and more surprising than before.
- **9. Carlos (Sundance Channel)** Edgar Ramirez stars as Carlos the Jackal.
- **10. God in America (PBS)** Frontline and American Experience documentary.

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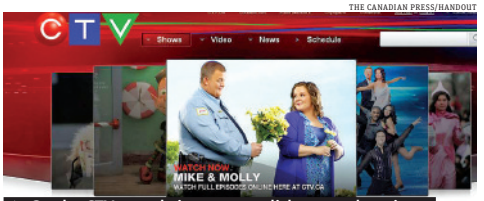
TV's downfall?

Recent launch of Google TV in the U.S. allows consumers to watch web content on the big screen

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT



▶ On the CTV.ca website you can click to watch various shows online.

As television executives try to predict how the industry will evolve in 2011 as more viewers watch shows online, they're cognizant — and perhaps a little worried — about the painful lessons learned from the music industry's digital revolution.

They know all too well that once consumers can access free content on their own terms, it's awfully difficult to return to the status quo.

Few think 2011 will be the year Canadians cancel their cable subscriptions en masse and start watching TV exclusively through the Internet, but it may mark the start of that seemingly inevitable future.

"We're not jumping off our buildings worried about it ... but I don't believe any of us are naive enough to believe that we alone can halt the inevitable progress of technology and the merging of multiple screens," said Alon Marcovici, CTV's executive vice president of digital media. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The highs and lows of Hollywood 2010

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It's been an odd year, 2010, with some surprise box office hits (hey there, Alice in Wonderland) and high-profile misses (Burlesque, I'm looking at you) mixed in with the usual Twilight and Harry Potter cash cows. With the holidays — and awards season — upon us, we try to make sense of it all by tallying up the best and worst films of 2010.

Up and down

Inception

A triumph of storytelling, visuals and emotion, Christopher Nolan's dreamscape is an all-around winner.

Sex and the City 2

It's rare for a movie to be this aggressively bad, especially when it's part of a beloved, successful TV and film franchise. Whether it was the worse-than-usual puns, the recession or the cultural tone-deafness, this was a tour de force of awfulness.

Ups

The Social Network

As timely as it is entertaining, David Fincher's Facebook movie gets great performances from its young cast, but it's Aaron Sorkin's screenplay that is the real star here.

Never Let Me Go

A subtle, moving adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro's heartbreaking novel, the film proved that Carey Mulligan's Oscar nomination last year wasn't a fluke.

Black Swan

Though it's been jokingly referred to as Showgirls for the art-house set, Darren Aronofsky's mind-bending look inside the world of professional ballet will leave you blinking at the screen.

The Ghost Writer

Though likely not Tony Blair's favourite film of the year, Roman Polanski's taut thriller about a memoir-writing former Prime Minister with something to hide was chilling and near-perfect.

Toy Story 3

Proving that franchises don't have to decline in quality as they go on — I'm looking at you, Shrek — this wasn't just a great animated film, it was a great film.

Blue Valentine

Absolutely devastating portrayal of a marriage imploding, this too-real drama starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams will haunt you.

Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

Edgar Wright's comic adaptation was possibly the most entertaining and original film of the year. Practically an anthem for the video game generation.

The Kids Are All Right

Anchored by a pair of hilariously flawed performances by Annette Bening and Julianne Moore as lesbian parents, this film's portrait of a modern family hit all the right notes.

Downs

Eat Pray Love

Beautiful to look at, as long as you don't listen to Julia Roberts' character's lamentations about being spiritually unfulfilled. It's two and a half hours of yuppie faux-spirituality, objectifying native cultures and rampant self-absorption.

For Colored Girls

Tyler Perry's clumsy adaptation — and even clumsier direction — left his stellar cast of actresses twisting in the wind.

Robin Hood

Ridley Scott's bloated, plodding retelling of the origins of Sherwood Forest's most famous resident, played by a scowling, grumbly Russell Crowe, was almost as boring as it was needlessly mean to the French.

Valentine's Day

A rom-com omnibus packed with pretty faces in various states of romantic distress, this overstuffed confection is about as aggressively sweet as they come. But in case you didn't get enough, the folks behind it have New Year's Eve on tap next.

Clash of the Titans

This remake's worst crime was tossing the original's bright colours and campiness for a dour, gray slog through Ancient Greece, all led by a smile-averse Sam Worthington.

The Back-Up Plan

Jennifer Lopez's latest bid at box office domination came off instead like a how-to guide for getting the romantic comedy genre wrong.

Dinner for Schmucks

It seems impossible for a movie starring Steve Carell and Paul Rudd — and featuring a Zach Galifianakis cameo — to be so aggressively unfunny, but Dinner for Schmucks achieves the impossible.

Jonah Hex

Somehow, Josh Brolin managed to appear in the best and worst westerns this year, getting top billing in both the superb True Grit and this turkey.

"FLAT-OUT THE FINEST ROMANTIC COMEDY OF THE YEAR."
RICHARD CORLISS, TIME

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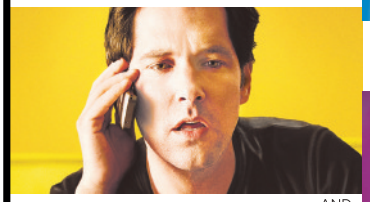
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SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

Wise customers read the fine print: ■, •, ◆, *, †, ††, §. The Car A Day Giveaway Event offers apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased between December 27, 2010 and December 31, 2010 from participating retailers. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating retailer for complete details and conditions. ■**No Purchase Necessary.** Contest opens 9:00AM ET December 27, 2010 and closes 11:59PM ET December 31, 2010. Five (5) Grand Prizes available to be won. One (1) prize per day, each consisting of a cheque for the total purchase price of the Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicle purchased. A random draw will be held on January 14, 2011 in Oakville, ON. Must be a resident of Ontario, of the age of majority with a valid Ontario driver's licence. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. Limit of one entry per person. For complete contest rules, including no purchase means of entry, go to: https://forms.chryslercanada.ca/caraday. •$18,995 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F) only and includes $8,250 Consumer Cash Discount. $19,995 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22F) only and includes $1,250 Consumer Cash Discount. $25,995 Purchase Price applies to 2011 Ram 1500 Quad 4x4 SXT (24A+AGR) only and includes $8,250 Consumer Cash Discount and $500 First Free Payment Offer. See participating retailer for complete details. Pricing includes freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. ◆The up to $500 First Free Payment Offer includes an amount on account of GST/HST (where applicable) and in the Province of Quebec, GST and QST. Customers may choose to have the up to $500 (including taxes) First Free Payment Offer applied to reduce the selling price after taxes of their new vehicle purchase, rather than to cover their first free payment. Offer is available to all retail customers that purchase a new eligible 2010/2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram from December 1, 2010 through January 3, 2011 (excluding only the following 2010 and 2011 models: Jeep Patriot 4x2/4x4 Sport, Compass 4x2/4x4 Sport, Wrangler 2-Door Sport, Dodge Journey SE, Grand Caravan Cargo Van & Canada Value Package, Caliber CVP & SE Plus, Ram 1500 Regular Cab 4x2/4x4 and Ram Cab and Chassis). *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2010 and select 2011 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-retailer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your retailer for complete details. †0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Example: 2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22F)/2010 Jeep Patriot North Edition 4x2 (26E) with a Purchase Price of $19,995/$19,495 financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $555.41/$541.52; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $19,995/$19,495. Pricing includes freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. ††Customer Choice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada is available at participating dealerships to qualified retail customers on most new 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models (except Grand Caravan Cargo Van and Ram Chassis Cab) and select 2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts. **(Different contract terms apply to Ally Credit Canada offers. See your retailer for complete details.)** Vehicles are financed over a 36-, 48- or 60-month term with payments amortized over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of returning their vehicle through a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $199 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges), financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates or paying the residual balance in full. Some conditions apply. Customer Choice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised Customer Choice Financing offers are TD offers. Examples: 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F)/2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22F)/2011 Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4x4 SXT (24A+AGR)/2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo (26E)/Jeep Patriot North Edition 4x2 (26E) with a Purchase Price of $18,995/$22,495/$25,995/$38,295/$19,495 financed at 5.99%/2.99%/2.99%/2.99%/4.98% APR over 60/60/60/60/60 months with payment amortized over 76/83/95/80/80 months equals 130 bi-weekly payments of $139/$138/$142/$244/$133 and one final payment of $4,655/$6,793/$10,260/$10,355/$5,415 for a cost of borrowing of $3,684/$2,238/$2,759/$3,723/$3,210 and a total obligation of $22,679.11/$24,732.99/$28,753.92/$42,018.34/$22,704.59. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage and wear and tear charges, any retailer administration fees and other applicable fees and charges not included. Retailers may sell for less. See participating retailers for complete details. §2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package advertised. 2011 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 advertised. 2010 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown has a higher price than the 2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package advertised. See your retailer or go to www.dodge.ca for complete details. ^Based on calendar year market share gain. ▼Based on *Ward's* 2010 Middle SUV classification. ®SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Customer Choice Financing is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

5 CHANCES TO WIN* BOXING WEEK ONLY – DEC. 27 TO 31

THE NEW 2011 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB SXT 4X4

CANADA'S FASTEST GROWING CHOICE OF LIGHT DUTY PICKUP◊

PURCHASE FOR

$25,995*

2011 Ram 1500 Quad Cab Sport shown.§

INCLUDES $8,250 CONSUMER CASH;* $500* FIRST FREE PAYMENT OFFER, FREIGHT, AIR TAX, TIRE LEVY AND OMVIC FEE. TAXES EXCLUDED. OTHER RETAILER CHARGES MAY APPLY.*

OR CHOOSE

CUSTOMER CHOICE FINANCING

$142 BI-WEEKLY @ 2.99%†† FOR 60 MONTHS AND $0 DOWN

WITH THE OPTION TO RETURN AFTER 60 MONTHS

(Includes $500* First Free Payment Offer)

STEP UP FOR ONLY $12 MORE BI-WEEKLY with Customer Choice Financing

(Includes $500* First Free Payment Offer)

THE NEW 2011 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB SLT 4X4

- Remote Keyless Entry • 17" Aluminum wheels
- SIRIUS® Satellite Radio (includes one year of service)
- Temperature and compass gauges
- Premium interior door trim • Overhead console
- Power sliding rear window

NO CHARGE HEMI® ENGINE

ALL NEW 2011 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO

UNSURPASSED 4X4 FUEL ECONOMY▾

- New 3.6L Pentastar™ VVT V6 delivering 32 MPG Highway & 290 hp
- New Premium Interior & 4-Wheel Independent Suspension
- Passive Entry Keyless Enter-n-Go
- Quadra-Trac I® 4-Wheel Drive System
- More than 45 Safety & Security Features
- Leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls
- Mid-size Utility of the Year according to Auto123.com

2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo shown.

CUSTOMER CHOICE FINANCING

$244 BI-WEEKLY @ 2.99%†† FOR 60 MONTHS AND $0 DOWN

WITH THE OPTION TO RETURN AFTER 60 MONTHS

(Includes $500* First Free Payment Offer)

2010 JEEP PATRIOT 4X2 NORTH EDITION

CASH DISCOUNTS* OF $3,500

2010 Jeep Patriot Limited shown.

PLUS GET 0%† PURCHASE FINANCING for 36 months

OR CHOOSE

CUSTOMER CHOICE FINANCING

$133 BI-WEEKLY @ 4.99%†† FOR 60 MONTHS AND $0 DOWN

WITH THE OPTION TO RETURN AFTER 60 MONTHS

(Includes $500* First Free Payment Offer)

†Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

WE'LL MAKE YOUR FIRST PAYMENT UP TO $500*

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

etalk's gossip expert Lainey counts down the stories that had celebrity-watchers buzzing this year To stay updated on all the drama 2011 will bring, watch etalk on CTV, or catch Lainey online at laineygossip.com

TEXT **LAINEY LUI**

Sandra's marriage ends in scandal

Two weeks after winning the Best Actress Oscar, Sandra Bullock found out via supermarket tabloid that her husband was cheating on her with a woman who tattooed her own face.

Jesse James's mistress count would soon rival Tiger Woods'. Bullock refused to throw herself a public pity party, initiated divorce proceedings immediately, and then revealed to the world that she'd managed to conceal an adoption.

She introduced baby Louis on her own terms on the cover of People Magazine, proving that celebrities can maintain privacy ... if they actually want to.

William, Kate get engaged

People lose their minds over ordinary weddings. When it comes to a Royal Wedding, things get straight up out of control.

Ending months of speculation, Prince William finally announced in November that he will marry commoner Kate Middleton.

He proposed with his mother's engagement ring. They posed for his mother's favourite photographer. Everyone wants to know who's designing her dress. But the real drama will be whether or not Camilla Parker-Bowles, her future stepmother-in-law, will have to curtsy to William's new bride. Kate will rank higher than Camilla when she marries.

Lohan in and out of courts, rehab

Lindsay Lohan opened 2010 by announcing she'd be playing porn star Linda Lovelace in a new biopic.

Then she lost her passport while partying at the Cannes film festival right before a probation hearing. She didn't look too worried about that when I saw her in France grinding on actor Dominic Cooper at a club.

The judge wasn't impressed either, and Lohan finally showed up for court with "F— You" written on her middle fingernail.

That resulted in a two-week stint in jail, followed by two trips to rehab, where she reportedly had an altercation with a rehab staffer.

Gibson's public blowup

This was the year that Mel Gibson went from Braveheart to Breathe-Hard.

The world became intimately familiar with Gibson's raging rants and heavy exhales after cellphone conversations between him and his ex-lover Oksana Grigorieva were leaked online as the two battled over abuse allegations and custody of their daughter.

Gibson's reputation was so tarnished he was dropped from a cameo in The Hangover sequel.

Swift's musical heartbreak

Taylor Swift's Speak Now was the highest selling album of the year. But who knew that country music's angel had such an undercover love life?

Her song Dear John is widely believed to be about John Mayer, with whom she was secretly involved for six months until, in typical Mayer fashion, he broke her heart. She poured it out in song, describing an immature narcissist who played with her emotions. By the end of the year, though, Swift was passing love notes to Jake Gyllenhaal.

Canada's hottest gossip items

Celine Dion gave birth to twins Nelson and Eddy in November. The angels in heaven haven't stopped singing since.

Ryan Reynolds was named the Sexiest Man Alive. A month later he announced his divorce from Scarlett Johansson.

Shania Twain is engaged to the man who used to be married to the woman who had an affair with her ex-husband Mutt Lange.

Justin Bieber was cleared on assault allegations over a game of laser tag in Richmond, B.C. He is currently maybe holding hands with Selena Gomez.

Presently seeking good looking men & women
aged 18-40 & kids 3-12 for photo shoot for BRIDE & GROOM magazine
For appointment, please call
416.363.8000
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

OVER THE RAINBOW
Boxing Week Sale
James Perse, Mackage, Nudie, Citizens, Seven, Paige, Hudson, True Religion, Joe's Jeans, Fidelity, Fred Perry, and MUCH MORE!
holiday hours
Dec 26 // 8-7
Dec 27 // 10-7
Dec 28 // 10-8
Dec 29 // 10-8
Dec 30 // 10-8
Dec 31 // 10-4
up to 50% off*
Door Crasher Specials!
open at 8AM Boxing Day!
101 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto | tel 416.967.7448 | www.rainbowjeans.com | www.insiderainbow.com
*Except Canada Goose. All sales are final.

FLICKR CC FOTOOSVANROBIN

FLICKR CC HERLEYSASHIMI

FLICKR CC DATENHAMSTER.ORG

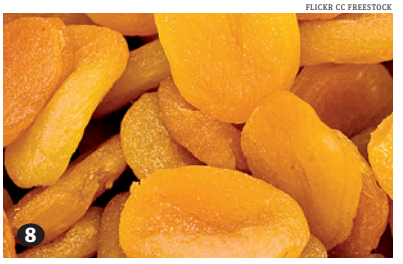
FLICKR CC SOUMIT

FLICKR CC MAGICMADZIC

FLICKR CC EPICBEER

FLICKR CC CHESTNUTS

FLICKR CC FREESTOCK



FLICKR CC IPASHA

Embrace healthy living

This year, why not resolve to include more super foods to your everyday diet?

JESSICA CARLESON
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

1 BLACK RICE

Once consumed only by Chinese nobility, "forbidden" black rice is being hailed as the latest super grain.

"It can help protect against cancer and heart disease and is rich in anthocyanin antioxidants. One spoonful of black rice bran contains more health promoting anthocyanin antioxidants than are found in a spoonful of blueberries." explains Zhimin Xu, associate professor in the Department of Food Science at Louisiana State University.

2 CHERRIES

Cherries contain melatonin, the same chemical the brain makes to get us to feel sleepy at night.

"We usually make enough of this naturally but cherries can help those suffering from jet lag or irregular sleeping patterns," explains nutritionist Michele Kingston.

3 COFFEE BERRIES

Comprised of the entire coffee fruit as opposed to just the bean, "coffee beans have a stellar antioxidant content," explains Jody Villeco, Whole Foods market nutritionist.

4 COCONUT WATER

The super drink of the year, coconut water is the purest liquid after water.

"People assume it's fatty but it's sourced from the young green coconuts and contains no fat at all…and one glass is 60 calories," explains Dana James, New York nutritionist and founder of Food Coach NYC.

5 RAW CHOCOLATE

"Raw chocolate is a minimally processed and antioxidant enhanced form of chocolate," says Villeco. Remarkably rich in magnesium, it is important for cardiovascular health.

6 BARLEY

Villeco explains how barley's soluble fibre has huge benefits such as keeping blood sugar levels balanced, promoting satiety and benefiting digestive and heart health. "Barley is high in beta glucan, which helps eliminate cholesterol from our bodies, and niacin (vitamin B3) which helps reduce it," explains Kingston.

7 CHESTNUTS

Far lower in calories than other nuts and a vitamin powerhouse (B6 and C), chestnuts make the perfect winter snack.

"They are full of fibre and a great source of magnesium and iron," explains raw food expert Christina Agnew.

8 APRICOTS

"Apricots are rich in antioxidant beta-carotene that promotes healthy eyes and skin, boosts the immune system and the elimination of free radicals," says Agnew.

"Look for sulphite-free varieties and remember that although natural, dried fruit is a concentrated source of sugar," explains Villeco.

9 WHITE BUTTON MUSHROOMS

White button mushrooms contain high levels of potassium that helps lower elevated blood pressure as well as selenium, which works with vitamin E to protect the body's cells. They are super low in calories and are very hydrating as they are nearly all water (80 to 90 per cent).

"They also deliver ergosterol, a form of vitamin D," says Villeco.

How to keep yourself nice and warm this winter

"Cold is a stress on the body, so it's important to keep warm to avoid this 'stress' response," says nutritionist Michele Kingston.

1 Layer up: Pile up the layers when getting dressed and always wear an extra layer than you normally would. Heat gets trapped between each layer and you will be warmer than if you were wearing one thick one.

2 Hot bottles: Go to bed with a hot water bottle, it may be totally old school, but nothing beats it.

3 Avoid quick fix heat: Steam rooms and saunas may not be such a great idea, because the body gets so hot that the cooling mechanisms are activated and you may end up feeling colder.

4 Drink and eat up: Add warming herbs, such as ginger, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, to your food and drink.

3 life

Stay warm

Warm feet

Stay warm and well footed with these unisex socks by thermal wear experts Damart. Worn over tights or tucked in boots they will ensure your toes don't freeze when playing in the snow or that your feet stay warm when you're curled up on your couch this Christmas.

ROMINA McGUINNESS

DAMART
$21
damart.com

A healthier, satisfying party food: Recipe for curried tropical nut mix

10.0 Megapixel Digital Still Camera

Doorcrasher!

WAS $109 SAVE $50

59.99

100 UNITS CHAINWIDE

A490 • 3.3x Optical Zoom
• AUTO mode • 2.5" LCD

14.1 Megapixel Digital Camera

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

WAS $249 SAVE $100

149.99

100 UNITS CHAINWIDE

"Fisheye" effect & Super Slow Motion

SD1400LV • 720p HD Video w/ HDMI Output
• Face Detection • 4X Optical Zoom • 2.7" LCD

SD/SDHC Camcorder

Panasonic

Doorcrasher!

WAS $299 SAVE $100

199.99

125 UNITS CHAINWIDE

SDRS50A
• 2-3/4" LCD • 78X zoom
• optical image stabilization
USB • audio/video output

14.6 Megapixel Digital Camera

SAMSUNG

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

WAS $749 SAVE $250

499.99

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICE!

NX10 • 3X optical zoom • 18-55mm Lens • compatible w/ Samsung NX mount lenses • optical image stabilization • pop-up flash • mini HDMI (cable not included)

THE BEST BOXING

SONY Stereo Receiver

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

Doorcrasher!

WAS $229 SAVE $70

159.99

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

STRDH100 • 5 Inputs • Digital Media Port
• 2 sets speaker outputs • head-phone jack

YAMAHA Home Theatre Audio

3D READY

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

Doorcrasher!

WAS $549 SAVE $200

349.99

150 UNITS CHAINWIDE

Made for iPod

5.1 Channel Receiver, Speakers & Sub YHT294 • 4x HDMI inputs
• Front panel mini jack for connecting portable audio player • 100W x 5

High-definition Cable Box

ROGERS

2-YEAR WARRANTY

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

Doorcrasher!

WAS $319 SAVE $130

188.99

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

E4642HD • Easy install • Front Panel USB 2.0 • Use your cable wiring for IP LAN Connections

LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER WITH HD PURCHASE

Pioneer 5.1 Ch. Receiver

3D READY

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

Doorcrasher!

WAS $299 SAVE $80

219.99

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

VSX520K • Bluetooth ready with optional Pioneer Adapter • HDMI (V.1.4a with 3D)
- 3 Inputs / 1 Output • 1 front mini jack

JVC DVD Player Doorcrasher!

1/2 PRICE!

WAS $99 SAVE $50

49.99

150 UNITS CHAINWIDE

XVN370B • Multi-Format Playback
• Digital Still Slideshow w/ Music

YAMAHA 7.1 Ch. Receiver

3D READY

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

Doorcrasher!

WAS $549 SAVE $200

349.99

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

RXV567B • 90Wx 7 • Front panel mini jack
• HD Audio decoding • 4x HDMI inputs

Panasonic Wall Mountable Audio

Works with iPhone

Made for iPod

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

WAS $249 SAVE $50

199.99

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

iPod/
iPhone NOT INCLUDED
SCHC30 • Built-in dock for iPod/
iPhone • CD Player• 40W (RMS) power

Blu-ray LG SONY SAMSUNG

ON SALE FROM ...

89.99 ea.

Doorcrasher!

5 UNITS PER LOCATION

ONKYO 7.1 Ch. Receiver

3D READY

THX

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

Doorcrasher!

WAS $899 SAVE $250

649.99

75 UNITS CHAINWIDE

HTRC270 • 7x HDMI inputs • THX Select Plus Certification • PC Input • Front USB
• Optional iPod Dock available

GARMIN GPS

4.3" TOUCHSCREEN

Doorcrasher!

WAS $149 SAVE $60

89.99

300 UNITS CHAINWIDE

NUVI255W • Preloaded w/ maps for all USA, CAN, & Puerto Rico • Voice guidance

Panasonic Blu-ray DVD Player

Boxing Day Sale Priced!

Doorcrasher!

WAS $49 SAVE $30

118.99

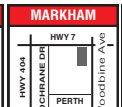
10 UNITS PER LOCATION

DMPBD45 • "BONUSVIEW" compatible • SD card slot
• Ultra-fast start • 5.1 channel audio decoding • Viera link

HOURS: Dec. 26 8-8PM • Dec. 27, 28, 29, 30 9:30-9:30PM • Dec. 31 9-5PM

MARKHAM

5985 STEELES AVE. E
(please, no phone quotes)

MARKHAM


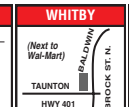
8502 WOODBINE AVE.
(please, no phone quotes)

LEASIDE

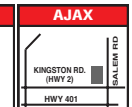
953 EGLINTON AVE E.
(please, no phone quotes)

NEWMARKET

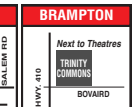
18166 YONGE ST.
(please, no phone quotes)

WHITBY


4160 Baldwin Street
(please, no phone quotes)

AJAX


170 KINGSTON RD.
(please, no phone quotes)

BRAMPTON


TRINITY COMMONS
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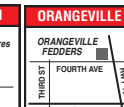
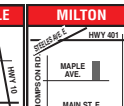
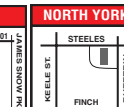
ORANGEVILLE


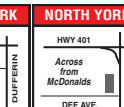
65 FOURTH AVE #C2
(please, no phone quotes)

MILTON


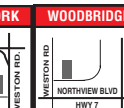
1155 MAPLE AVE.
(please, no phone quotes)

NORTH YORK


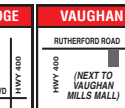
81 GERRY FITZGERALD DR #7
(please, no phone quotes)

NORTH YORK


2610 WESTON RD.
(please, no phone quotes)

WOODBRIDGE


7887 WESTON #1&2
(please, no phone quotes)

VAUGHAN


9100 JANE ST.
(please, no phone quotes)

**PRICE GUARANTEE REFERS TO OTHER AUTHORIZED DEALER'S "ADVERTISED" PRICES ON IN-STOCK MERCHANDISE ONLY." WE WILL BEAT AUTHORIZED DEALERS' "ADVERTISED PRICE" UNDER SAME TERMS & CONDITIONS BASED ON LOCATION SPECIFIC "IN-STOCK" SUPPLY. OUR GUARANTEE DOES NOT INCLUDE COMPETITORS "INTERNET PRICING", OR "TIMED SPECIALS, DOOR-CRASHERS, LIMITED QUANTITY SPECIALS, BOXING DAY PRICING. BONUS OFFER IS 1-PER CUSTOMER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTIONAL OFFER OR PREVIOUS PURCHASES. "FLOOR MODEL" & "CLEARANCE" ITEMS SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE. Although we strive for accuracy, errors sometimes occur. Corrections to any errors will be posted in our stores.

SALE IN EFFECT WHILE STOCK LASTS

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD**

BOXING DAY SPECIALS NOT AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE - SHOPPING IN-STORE ONLY

LC22SB28
Hi-Definition LCD • PC Input

32LD350
Hi-Definition LCD
• 2x HDMI • PC Input

PN42C430
Hi-Definition Plasma • 2x HDMI
• Game mode • Energy saving

WEEK SALE!

32LD450
Hi-Definition 1080p
• 2x HDMI Inputs
• PC & USB Input

KDL40EX400
Hi-Definition 1080p LCD • 4x HDMI Inputs • PC input • USB

50PK550
Hi-Definition 1080p
• 3x HDMI • PC/USB Input
• 3,000,000:1 contrast

TCP46C2
Hi-Definition
• Mercury/lead free

47LD500
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New Year's traditions

From fire ceremonies to gongs, each country has its own unique way of ringing in the New Year

JESSICA LEWIS
@METRONEWS.CA

On New Year's Eve in Canada, most of us watch the ball drop on a television set while sipping champagne, warm and cozy inside our homes. In other countries, there are different traditions that honour the incoming new year. From good luck charms to fireworks to elves, here are a few countries with fascinating celebrations.

HENNY RAY ABRAMS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Revellers greet a new year with confetti and cheering at Times Square in New York.

First footing

Part of the Hogmanay tradition in Scotland, neighbours would visit each other after the clocks tolled midnight.

The first person to cross the treshold would brings gifts — a coin, bread, salt, coal, or a drink — to bring good luck to the home.

Scotland
The Scottish New Year celebration has become a huge festival named Hogmanay. Many cities take part in the festival, but Edinburgh and Glasgow boast the largest. There are music performances, fire ceremonies such as torchlight processions, and street parties. The celebrations can last up until January 2.

Brazil
The largest New Year's Eve celebration in Brazil is on Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach. Attendees of the beach parties wear white for good luck and to honour the goddess of the water, Iemanjá. The beach boasts numerous concert stages, lots of dancing and large fireworks displays at midnight.

Iceland
A popular tradition on New Year's Eve is to participate in community bonfires. They usually take place in the evening, after family dinners. At midnight, families have their own sets of fireworks and firecrackers. In Iceland, traditions can extend until January 6, with a celebration for elves and trolls.

Japan
Known as Oshogatsu, the holiday is one of the most important for the country. It is a time for families and getting rid of the year's bad luck, making way for new, more prosperous luck. On Dec 31, Buddhist temples ring gongs 108 times to expel 108 different types of human weakness

Spain
One popular Spanish tradition during the celebrations is for a person to eat 12 grapes, one for each stroke the clock makes at midnight.

If you can eat them all successfully, you will have good luck.

Your New Year's resolutions

WE ASKED SOME COOL CANADIANS WHAT THEY PLAN ON CHANGING IN 2011.

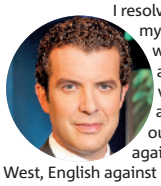
Cynthia Zahoruk

PRESIDENT, AUTISM CANADA FOUNDATION

I love to organize and I enjoy the start of a new year because of the opportunity to close out past projects and start fresh with a clean desk and a new calendar. Yes, I still use a "paper" day planner. An architect by training, I start the year — if not every day — thinking about new building projects. This year, I personally want to develop the idea of enhanced, private group home living for children with autism. I think there are a lot of parents that want more for their adult, special needs children than just the minimum that the system is able to provide. I want to develop a plan to enable parents to ensure their kids will be well taken care of.

Rick Mercer

RICK MERCER REPORT, CBC



I resolve to be calm when I see my government lying. Also, when I see my government abusing Canadian veterans over and over again, I will be calm. When our government pits rural against urban, East against West, English against French, Tim Hortons against fill in the blank, I will be calm. When I see MPs from all parties playing stupid partisan political games instead of working together to make Canada a better place, I will be calm. Actually, I take all that back. To hell with being calm, anger is my cardio. And like everyone else, I hate going to the gym.

Don Mann

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

To fully understand the implications of diabetes, because I live with it each and every day of my life. As one of the more than nine million Canadians living with diabetes or prediabetes, I feel that the New Year is a good time to get serious about living a healthy life. My personal resolution for 2011 is to continually remind my fellow directors of the Canadian Diabetes Association that every day counts in the fight against diabetes.

Jessica Holmes

COMEDIENNE ON ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE, CBC

When winter comes, I fall in love with the snow (especially the white snow). Our winter wonderland makes me recommit to the environment each year. In 2010, I shopped used instead of new in the areas of clothing, home furnishings, books, and pots & pans... basically everything but undies (sorry environment, that's where I draw the line). The lady with the wild kids at the monthly 50% off days at Goodwill? Me. In 2011, I'm going to keep finding new ways to go green. I'll probably stop short of bicycling in winter wearing birkenstocks and sporting dreads, but I will be bringing my reusable thermos on the subway instead of buying bottled water. Baby steps to a green future, baby!

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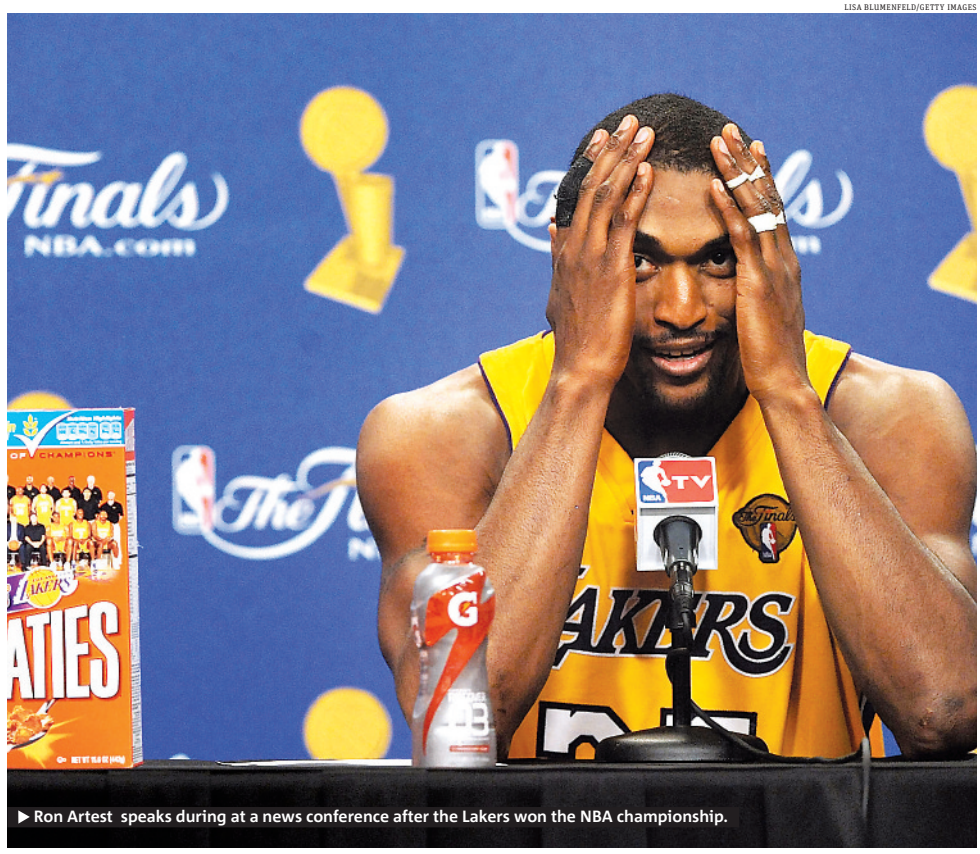
4 sports

One strange year

Metro's John Chick looks at some of this year's odder stories from around the world of sport From baffling fashion choices to dangerous dealings with furniture, 2010 had it all

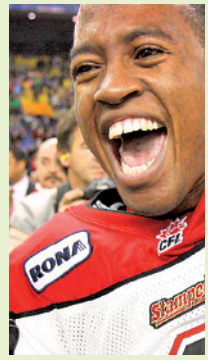
LISA BLUMENFELD/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Ron Artest speaks during at a news conference after the Lakers won the NBA championship.

NBA
It's impossible to summarize Ron Artest's career body of work in one paragraph. To simplify, this is a guy who as a rookie with the Bulls in 1999, (salary then $1.1 million US) applied for a part-time job at Circuit City to get an employee discount on electronics. This year however, he'll be remembered for thanking his psychiatrist on live television after helping the Lakers capture the NBA title (To be fair, Artest seems genuine about shining attention on mental illness — he was set to raffle off his championship ring on Christmas Day for funds for that purpose).

UFC
Sean Pierson is an MMA fighter who also had dreams of becoming a Toronto police officer. Unfortunately just this month, his other dream of competing in a UFC event (called in after another fighter's injury) helped dash his goal of being in law enforcement. Turns out Pierson used to compete under the moniker "Pimp Daddy," which didn't sit well with the Toronto Police. Pierson had a conditional offer of employment with the force, which was rescinded after his appearance at UFC 124 in Montreal brought back Internet memories of Pierson's old handle. A police spokesman, clearly referring to the unlawful nature of the nickname, said it was "not appropriate for a police officer."



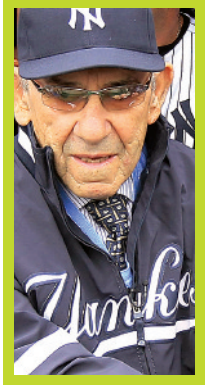
CFL
One of the things that's refreshing about the CFL is that the league's top players don't make mind-boggling money. Sure, the good quarterbacks like Henry Burris are paid well, but instead of private parties with professional models, you'd be more likely to spot a CFL player like Burris at a house party down the street clowning around like a college kid, wearing a bra, exactly like he was photographed doing this year.

Soccer
Allegations that there are some shady secrets inside soccer's global governing body are nothing new. However on the eve of host selections for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups respectively, Andrew Jennings of the venerable BBC newsmagazine Panorama alleged that three senior FIFA officials took bribes in the 1990s. Disappointed by the timing, the chief of England's bid for the 2018 event called the BBC "unpatriotic." Three days later, FIFA awarded Russia the 2018 World Cup.

NHL
When a pro athlete marries a TV star, you would generally expect a decadent, six-or-seven-figure event with a clothing budget rivaling the price of real estate. This however was not the case in Sweden this summer, when Detroit Red Wings forward Henrik Zetterberg married Swedish TV personality Emma Andersson.

MLB
For 13 Major League seasons, Russell Branyan has been known for his inability to do anything other than strike out, homer or walk. But thanks to 2010, he'll also be known for being injured by furniture. In July, the Seattle Mariners utilityman woke up in a hotel room — and while on the way to open the curtains, banged into a coffee table, which elevated and landed on his toe. He missed three games. Then in September, while eating with his family at a pizza joint, he allegedly slid off a plastic chair, landing hard on his tailbone. Branyan didn't play again all season, and is now a free agent.

Quoted



"George was The Boss, make no mistake. He built the Yankees into champions, and that's something nobody can ever deny."
YOGI BERRA, ON GEORGE STEINBRENNER, WHO DIED THIS YEAR AT AGE 80.

"In my opinion, if he's not as important as Dr. Naismith, he's right next to him."
CONNECTICUT COACH JIM CALHOUN, ON FORMER UCLA BASKETBALL COACH JOHN WOODEN, WHO DIED AT AGE 99, JUST A COUPLE MONTHS SHORT OF A CENTURY.

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STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tiger Woods blew a four-shot lead and lost in a playoff to Graeme McDowell at the Chevron World Challenge in 2010.

Are the top sports stars in decline?

In many ways, 2010 felt like the year the big shift began

Spot Tiger Woods a four-stroke lead going into the final round — at his own tournament, no less — and the winner's cheque is a gimme.

At least, it used to be.

Not only did Woods fail to cash in at the Chevron World Challenge earlier this month, he went the entire year without winning a single tournament, a first in his career and a drought unthinkable just 13 months ago. But Woods was hardly the only one to have a rough year. From Brett Favre to Roger Federer to Derek Jeter to the Texas Longhorns, many of the old reliables looked, well, old.

It's a new decade, and the sports stars are bound to change.

Sure, Woods will (probably) win again and Michael Phelps is in no danger of being lapped. Yet their struggles, coupled with the emergence of some new phenoms, have given us a glimpse of what the sports world might look like a few years down the road.

Imagine a Super Bowl where Clay Matthews III is chasing down Sam Bradford or Andrew Luck. Rory McIlroy and Rickie Fowler battling it out for golf's No. 1 ranking, perhaps. Kevin Durant, Derrick Rose and John Wall could be the NBA's Big Three for the 20teens.

And did anyone happen to notice how many medals China and South Korea hauled in at the Vancouver Olympics?

"The takeaway on the competition side of 2010, more than anything else, was the tremendous interest in young players coming up," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said earlier this month.

"Actually, it has led us to conclude that we really need to focus on that dynamic as we go into 2011."

The American Thanksgiving night car crash in 2009 that revealed Woods' infidelities, wrecked his marriage and made a mess of his personal life. No surprise the turmoil spilled over into his golf game, too. At one point, Woods went seven starts without a top-10 finish, the longest stretch of his career.

"I've never in my tenure seen so much buzz and interest about rookies and young players creating exciting performances."
TIM FINCHEM, PGA TOUR COMMISSIONER

And on Oct. 31, for the first time in 281 weeks, someone other than Woods was No. 1 in the world.

Woods' divorce was finalized in late August.

Now, as Woods turns 35 before the 2011 season starts, all those career marks he's supposed to hit don't necessarily look like such a certainty.

Favre insists he is done after this year, and he might really mean it this time.

He might not have a choice.

A season of hard hits, broken bones and missed chances has taken its toll on the former MVP, topped by the sprained throwing shoulder he got when the Bills' Arthur Moats decleated him. That ended the quarterback's epic streak of consecutive starts at 297.

"Relief, in one sense. There wasn't a whole lot of pressure on me today," Favre said after his first game on the sidelines since 1992.

He made one last rally, returning a week later to start against the Chicago Bears, only to be knocked out of the game, suffering what he called a concussion when he was slammed to the frigid turf.

Even before that, Favre was looking every bit of his 41 years. A year after taking the Minnesota Vikings within one play of the Super Bowl, Favre was picked off 18 times in the first 12 games of the season while throwing just 10 touchdowns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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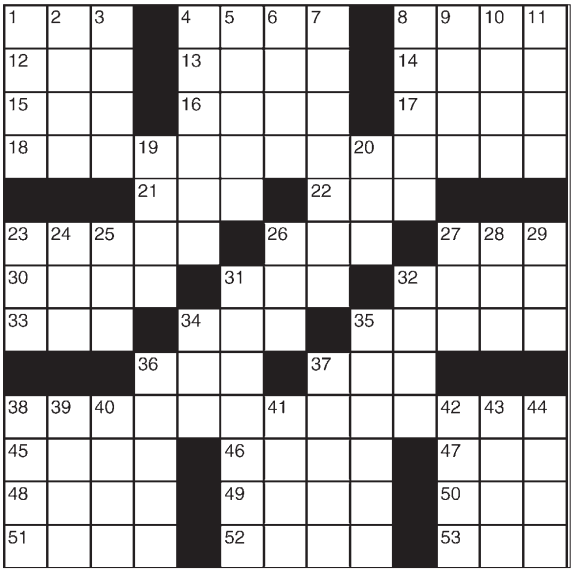

Across

1 Unfriendly
4 Gospels' follower
8 Mr. Pitt
12 Discoverer's cry
13 Coin aperture
14 Hindu princess
15 Dress
16 Long story
17 Aware of
18 Popular Christmas carol
21 Nog ingredient
22 Blend
23 Meat-and-dairy shunner
26 Foundation
27 Nevertheless, briefly
30 Bloodhound's clue
31 Christmas tree, maybe
32 Knitter's need
33 Court
34 Carpet
35 Christmas entree
36 Round Table address
37 Has permission
38 Popular Christmas carol
45 Declare
46 Gridlock sound
47 Listener
48 Early software version
49 Otherwise
50 Ostrich's cousin
51 Wield scissors
52 Peruse
53 Hammarskjöld of U.N. fame

Down

1 Small bit
2 Food
3 Meditation method
4 Appoint
5 Trolley noise
6 Frat party garb
7 Speak haltingly
8 Big names in zoos
9 Pealed
10 Initial stake
11 New Look designer
19 Calendar quota
20 Succor
23 Promise
24 Tokyo, once
25 Stickum
26 Humongous
27 Lao-tzu's principle
28 Storefront sign abbr.
29 Indivisible
31 Promote
32 Vacillate
34 Carnival city
35 Stared stupidly
36 Knapsack part
37 High-IQ group
38 Pokes
39 Microwave, e.g.
40 Abominable Snowman
41 Pit
42 Oboe insert
43 Dalai —
44 Pharmaceutical

▶ Yesterday's answer

H	E	M	■	D	O	R	■	T	E	S	T	S		
A	D	O	■	O	R	A	■	A	T	R	I	A		
V	I	N	■	W	I	N	D	C	H	I	L	L		
O	T	T	■	N	E	G	R	O	■	■	■	■		
C	H	E	Z	■	N	E	O	■	T	A	F	T		
■	■	■	O	A	T	■	P	H	O	B	I	A		
U	P	E	N	D	■	■	■	A	P	A	R	T		
M	I	K	A	D	O	■	S	P	A	■	■	■		
P	E	E	L	■	U	T	E	■	Z	A	N	Y		
■	■	■	S	C	R	A	P	■	C	O	E	■		
W	I	N	D	C	H	I	M	E	■	M	I	N		
A	R	E	N	A	■	B	E	G	■	E	S	T		
S	E	D	A	N	■	E	D	S	■	S	E	A		

Sudoku

			8		1			3
9	4		5			2		
	8		7					
						6		8
1	6						9	5
4		7						
					7		6	
		3			4		5	9
5			9		2			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	4	5	8	9	3	1	7	6
9	7	1	6	4	5	8	2	3
6	3	8	1	7	2	9	5	4
5	8	2	3	6	1	4	9	7
3	9	7	2	5	4	6	8	1
4	1	6	7	8	9	2	3	5
7	6	9	5	1	8	3	4	2
1	2	4	9	3	7	5	6	8
8	5	3	4	2	6	7	1	9

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Still thinkng of you Devin **TOOTHFAIRY**

E. I'm sorry for being a jerk I just want to know that you feel the same way about me as I feel about you. And I'm serious about your Escalade, I love you that much. xxxxxxoooooooo **J.B.**

Jay, Not even 2 months, since our 8 hour conversation and im completely in awe by the power behind us. The inpiration, passion and dreams are endless with you by my side. Its fantastic, with a K.

Tara! Have an amazing time in Mexico!!! You are my favorite person on the globe. I love you. From your **TWEETY-WALKA** *:)*

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Monday will give a boost to your ambitions, most likely by bringing someone in authority over to your side so you are more likely to be triumphant in power struggles with rivals.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Stop worrying what other people might be saying about you and have the confidence to do what you feel is right. It may seem as if the whole world is against you this week but self-belief will see you through.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You need to be canny about money matters.Beware that people you do business with cannot be trusted. Check every last fact and figure for yourself. Take nothing on trust.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You have to accept that others have the upper hand at the moment. However, if you play your own hand wisely you can still get what you need.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Holidays may be fun but there are serious issues that need to be dealt with. Throw yourself into your work this week and make sure you have total mastery of all the little details.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Cosmic activity in the most productive area of your chart gives you the drive and the determination you need to do something out of the ordinary. Don't follow other people — follow your dream wherever it leads you.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Unless you are openly invited to give your opinion about what is going on in the private life of a friend or relative you must keep your mouth shut.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Good news will be coming your way over the next few days. If it's to do with your finances you must resist the urge to go on a celebratory spree.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You will find it easy to make money this week — in fact you seem to have the Midas Touch. Sometimes you can be a bit too easygoing when it comes to what you earn but wealth means more to you now than anything else.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Your self-image will get a major boost. You will realize how much more is possible once you stop feeling sorry for yourself and get serious about your ambitions. You're a Capricorn – you were born for success.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Enjoy what remains of the holiday weekend, then start making plans for the approaching new year. Those plans must be all about you.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You just can't get out of the party spirit. You want the good times to go on and on. And they will. You've had an excellent year and it's only right and proper that you should want to celebrate. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AIR CANADA VACATIONS

Deals of the week

Use your mobile application

NON-STOP FLIGHTS

CUBA

Cayo Coco/Cayo Guillermo

NH Krystal Laguna Villas & Resort • 3 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive • Club Laguna rm.
Jan. 2 - 31 • 1 wk.

$589
+Taxes & other fees: $160
Departure tax: 25 CUC cash, paid locally

Holguin

Sirenis Playa Turquesa • 4 ★

All-Inclusive • Superior rm.
Jan. 6 - 22 • 1 wk.

$639
+Taxes & other fees: $160
Please add $75 for Sat. departures
Departure tax: 25 CUC cash, paid locally

Varadero

Sirenis La Salina Varadero Beach Resort • 4 ★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Jan. 3 - 24 • 1 wk.

$739
+Taxes & other fees: $160
Please add $50 for Sat. & Sun. departures
Departure tax: 25 CUC cash, paid locally

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Punta Cana

Occidental Grand Punta Cana • 4 ★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Jan. 6, 9, 10 & 13 - 16 • 1 wk.

$899
+Taxes & other fees: $176

Samana

Gran Bahia Principe El Portillo • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Feb. 5, 6, 12 & 13 • 1 wk.

PRIVILEGES
$1239
+Taxes & other fees: $176

La Romana

Dreams La Romana Resort & Spa • 5 ★

All-Inclusive
Deluxe garden view rm.
Feb. 5 & 12 • 1 wk.

$1319
+Taxes & other fees: $176

COSTA RICA

Liberia

Occidental Grand Papagayo • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm.
Jan. 13 & 20 • 1 wk.

$1299
+Taxes & other fees: $87
Departure tax: 26 USD cash, paid locally

MEXICO

Puerto Vallarta/ Riviera Nayarit

Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive • Promo rm.
Feb. 1 - 4, 21, 25 & 28 • 1 wk.

PRIVILEGES
$1479
+Taxes & other fees: $130

SAINT LUCIA

Almond Morgan Bay • 4 ★

All-Inclusive
Standard rm. pool & garden view
Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 1 wk.

$1989
+Taxes & other fees: $109

USA

Las Vegas

Luxor Las Vegas • 4 ★

Pyramid rm.
Feb. 1 • 3 nts.

$379
+Taxes & other fees: $118

Orlando

Clarion Resort & Waterpark • 3 ★

Double guest rm.
Jan. 24 • 1 wk.

$379
+Taxes & other fees: $114

CRUISE

Celebrity Cruises[1]

Celebrity Summit[SM]

Southern Caribbean cruise
Flight to San Juan
Interior stateroom, cat. 11
Mar. 26 • 1 wk.

$1029
+Taxes & other fees: $139

REAL RESORTS

MEXICO

Cancun/Riviera Maya

Gran Caribe Real Resort & Spa • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite ocean view
Feb. 14 • 1 wk.

PRIVILEGES
$1389
+Taxes & other fees: $252

The ROYAL in Cancun • 5 ★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite ocean view
Feb. 14 • 1 wk.
Adults only (16+)

PRIVILEGES
$1999
+Taxes & other fees: $252

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